

Stated Meeting, October 1, 1844.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Mounted specimens of *Scotophilus perlatus*, Sw., *Falco* ———, and *Buteo* ———, from South Africa. Presented by Dr. Watson.

Skin of an *Ichneumon*, from Liberia. From Dr. William Blanding.

Tantalus melanops, *Trochilus vesper*, *Agelaius* ———, *Euphonia musica*, and *Tyrannus cinereus*, L. Presented by Mr. Cassin.

Large specimen of Coral, from the Indian Ocean. Presented by Mr. Frederick Graeff, of Philadelphia, through Mr. W. S. Vaux.

An analysis, by Prof. Reid, of three Sulphur Springs at Sharon, Schoharie county, N. Y., was referred to a committee, consisting of Professor Johnson, Dr. Bridges, and Dr. B. H. Coates.

Prof. Johnson read the following communication from Prof. Espy.

Philadelphia, Sept. 22d, 1844.

DEAR SIR,—I send you an extract of a letter which I have lately received, which is only one of many in my possession, going to prove that rain may be produced by man in time of drought.

“DEAR SIR,—The undersigned citizens of Coudersport, Pa., and vicinity, desirous of rendering you what little aid they possibly can, beg leave to present to you their testimonial of the following facts.

On Saturday the 13th of July, about one o'clock, the fallow of D. F. Ellsworth, Esq., containing about six acres was fired. At the time the fire was set, the day was calm and warm, and would be considered clear; there were some flying clouds, with slight appearance of rain to the North, but none in our neighborhood. The fire spread rapidly and burned with great violence.

In a short time, a white cloud was seen to form over the black smoke, which rose over the fire with great rapidity, nearly perpendicular. The white cloud rolled outwards above, especially towards the North and South, and probably towards the East as the wind was gentle in that direction, and as the rain which fell from it increased as it proceeded East, as far as heard from. It did not swell out far towards the West. In less than an hour from the commencement of the burning, very large drops of rain were seen descending by many inhabitants of Coudersport from the cloud, glittering in the rays of the sun like diamonds.

It rained but little in Coudersport, which is about one hundred rods west of the fire, and none at all one half mile west of the village.

This latter fact was remarked particularly by Charles Lyman, who was ten miles west of Coudersport, at the time of the burning, and who found the road very dusty until he came within a few rods of the village, when the first edge of the shower made its appearance. Mr. Lyman lives two miles east of Coudersport, and he found the quantity of rain which had fallen constantly increased as he advanced. When he got home he found the ground quite wet; previous to the rain it was quite dry and parched, suffering much for want of rain.

Samuel Taggart lives six miles east of the fire, and at his place the shower was very violent, and lasted about thirty minutes. Some of our citizens watched the whole formation of the cloud and its gradual recession towards the East after the rain, and we have understood from credible authority that it rained hard and much longer many miles to the East the same afternoon.

We are unanimously of the opinion that the rain was produced by the burning of the fallow, and we think it due to your zeal in the cause of science to make this communication to you.

Yours,

JOHN S. MANN, Att. at Law.

CHARLES LYMAN,

W. C. BUTTERWORTH, Att. at Law.

SAMUEL TAGGART,

JOHN B. PRADT, Epis. Clergyman.

DAVID T. HALL.

To Prof. Espy.

Coudersport, Pa., July 27, 1844."

I take an early opportunity of making the above communication to you, knowing that you take an interest in the subject.

Yours truly,
JAMES P. ERSY.

Professor W. R. Johnson.

A letter was read from Dr. Lewis R. Gibbes, acknowledging the reception of his notice of election as a Correspondent.

Stated Meeting, October 8, 1844.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Specimen of the Sugar Cane in flower, from St. Croix. From Peter A. Browne, Esq.

Mr. Kilvington presented a specimen of (a spike in fruit) *Ricinus armatus*, from the West Indies.

Specimen of *Scops Senegalensis*, Sw. From Dr. Watson.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

Almanac for 1844, of the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences. From the Academy.

Catalogue of the Library of West Point Academy. New York, 1830. From Dr. Elwyn.

Notes on Northern Africa, the Sahara and Soudan. By Wm. B. Hodgson. New York, 1844. From the Author.

Dr. Morton made a communication to the Society on a second series of ancient Egyptian Crania obtained from tombs around the Pyramids of Ghezeh. He proposed to continue his remarks, and to present the whole in a written form at a future meeting.